

From the Washington Union.  
**Facts against Whig Predictions.**  
When the tariff of 1846 was established by the democratic party in Congress, among other great interests which it was to involve in ruin, according to the seers of federalism, was the coal interest of Pennsylvania. The catastrophe was to be accomplished through the instrumentality of large importations of Pictou and Liverpool coal; for which, it was alleged, the new tariff had opened the markets of the United States. Facts, however, put to flight this croaking prediction, as they have put to flight all others which have been put forth by the same prophets of ruin. It appears by the returns of the coal trade, published in the *Philadelphia Commercial List* of January 8th, that the entire quantity of foreign coal imported into the United States in 1847, under the tariff of 1846, was 148,021 tons. Whole quantity imported in 1846, under the tariff of 1842, was 156,855 tons.—Thus it appears that, under the whig tariff of 1842, there were over 8,000 tons of foreign coal imported into the United States more than was imported in 1847, under the democratic tariff of 1846.

But this is not all. Never was there so large a quantity of anthracite coal carried to market from the mines of Pennsylvania as in 1847. It appears from the *Commercial List*, of the same date, that the total supply of coal from the Pennsylvania mines in 1846 was 2,333,201 tons, and in 1847 it was 2,970,370 tons—being an excess over the year 1846 of 637,169 tons. Anthracite coal is now quoted in the New York prices current at \$5 50 to \$6 per ton. Estimating the value of the excess of 637,169 tons carried to market in 1847 at the average price of \$5 75 per ton, and it gives the sum of \$3,703,721, which has been added to the wealth of Pennsylvania on the single article of coal in 1847, under the ruinous operation of the democratic tariff of 1846. Now this great prosperity of the coal interest of Pennsylvania is not owing to the famine in Ireland; for hungry, starving Irishmen cannot eat anthracite coal, any more than they can eat the stones which their oppressors give them when they ask for bread. In view of such facts as these, who can be surprised at the overwhelming defeat of the federal party in the late election in Pennsylvania? We commend the facts above stated to Mr. Andrew Stewart, who, it is said, is about to demolish the Secretary of the Treasury, by overwhelming him with an avalanche of his (Mr. Stewart's) peculiar facts and arguments. Alas poor Mr. Walker!

From the N. Y. Herald.  
**The Free Banks of New York.**  
We hope and trust that some member of the Legislature will offer a resolution calling for all the correspondence, communications, information, and documents, which may be in any of the public offices in Albany, connected with the organization, progress, and explosion of every bank in the State. There is no doubt, after reading the Comptroller's able report, which we gave on Tuesday, that a vast quantity of valuable information on those swindling and dishonest institutions is now in the hands of some of the public offices in Albany, that ought to be known to the whole community. It is time that a stand should be taken against the gross corruption and dishonesty which the free system of banking is beginning to develop in this State. It professes to be founded on State stocks; but any basis but gold and silver for currency, is utterly futile and dishonest to the community at large. There is now in the United States, probably, a sum of one hundred millions of specie, and the whole of our banking system ought to be reformed and brought down to a specie paying system; and no bank ought to be allowed to exist in any out-of-the-way place, or anywhere but in large cities, with bills of no smaller denomination than five dollars. The multitude of banks now in existence, issuing one, two and three dollar bills, only represent a multitude of dishonest men, a multitude of scoundrels—who deserve nothing less than the State prisons or penitentiaries of the country. A great portion of the working community are shamed, from the beginning of the year to the end of it—from the rising to the setting of the sun—by those rascally institutions in this and other States. The free banks in this State, thus far, and those of recent establishment, are some of the worst in the lot. We trust, therefore, there will be a rigid and searching investigation, made on this subject, in the present session of the Legislature.

#### Important Decision in the Gaines Case—A Female Astor.

Most of our readers are no doubt aware that Mrs. Gaines, the wife of Gen. Gaines, has had in suit for some twelve or fifteen years a claim for an estate valued as low as \$10,000,000 and as high as \$30,000,000. The Circuit Court of Louisiana decided the case against her. She appealed, and the case was carried up to the Supreme Court of the United States, and intelligence has been received from Washington that the Court has reversed the decree of the Circuit Court.

The whole of this property, which has been so long in litigation, is situated in the city of New Orleans, and, as we have before stated, is estimated to be worth from ten to thirty millions of dollars.

We understand a paper is in circulation through town for signature attesting to the good character, efficiency, &c., of Mr. David Leavitt as canal trustee. There can be no two opinions as to the necessity of getting up some such paper, if Mr. L. is anxious about his reputation in Illinois, for we are very sure his acts can speak nothing in his favor. By way of helping the matter along, we would just suggest that, when the canal is completed, Mr. Leavitt will have a controlling power in the appointment of a great number of collectors, lock tenders, weight masters, &c. &c.—*Ottawa Free Trader.*

## JOLIET SIGNAL.

JOLIET, ILL.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1848.

### The Position of the Whig Party.

The Whig journals are chuckling over what they term the divisions of the democratic party of the union; but in their rejoicing, let them look at the discontent in their own ranks. They have voted for a resolution declaring that the war was "unconstitutionally commenced by the President." The resolution containing this infamous declaration was adopted by the whigs in Congress, notwithstanding a movement of our troops to the Rio Grande, was urged months before any such movement took place, by Gen. Taylor, who is the candidate for the Presidency of a large part of the party. How the friends of Gen. Taylor will view this declaration of their members in Congress, remains to be seen. This movement, which was doubtless made to strengthen the position taken by Mr. Clay, another of their most popular candidates, will place their party in an embarrassed condition, should General Taylor receive the nomination of their national convention. This disrespect of the expressed sentiments of Gen. Taylor by the whig members of Congress, we predicate, will open the eyes of some of the General's friends and cause them to oppose the nomination of Mr. Clay more strongly.

Thus, while the whigs are dicker for the Presidency, the important business before Congress remains as it did at the commencement of the session. The democrats can do nothing, as the whigs have a majority in the House and stand ready to oppose them in their efforts to bring the action of the House to the question of the war. The war measures recommended by the President have already been delayed too long. Every true patriot is anxiously watching for the action of Congress upon them. A week's delay in voting supplies and reinforcements may be of immense advantage to our enemies! The democrats are anxious to meet the issue by a direct vote at any time, and, therefore, are free from the infamy of the delay. The responsibility rests with the whigs in the House, who will receive the condemnation of a vast majority of the people of this country if the delay is protracted much longer.

Much has been said, and not without reason, about the course which the whig leaders have pursued, crippling the energies of the government in the prosecution of this war. Their opposition to the administration—their assertion that the war was commenced by the President—and their sympathy for our "outraged" and "blameless" enemies, as some of the more anti-Americans term them—have had a powerful effect in prolonging the contest. There is a large portion of the whig party who are strongly in favor of withholding supplies, and of withdrawing our forces from the scenes of their heroisms and triumphs to the east bank of the Rio Grande. The speeches which are made in Congress in support of this degrading measure are read by the Mexicans, and encourages them to hold out and fight with greater desperation. If the whigs desire to seal their condemnation, let them refuse supplies for the war! The people of this republic as has been manifestly shown, wherever an expression has been given, are determined that the war shall be vigorously prosecuted until the Mexicans are compelled to submit to a just and reasonable peace. We cannot believe that the whigs will be so reckless—so lost to a sense of national honor as to withhold the necessary supplies; but after all, their actions have done much to paralyze our arms and to cheer up the hopes of our blood-thirsty enemies. Will not every patriot remember this when he comes to vote at the coming elections? We trust that our government will not be compelled to recall our troops so long as there is an enemy in the field, and not until she has received a full indemnity, such as may be dictated by honorable terms.

**TOM CORWIN.**—A petition has been presented from 81 citizens of Richland county, Ohio, to the Senate of that State calling upon it to take into consideration the propriety of asking Thomas Corwin to resign his seat in the United States Senate; and further if it should be deemed necessary to confine him in the Ohio Penitentiary until the close of the war. The petition was received by a vote of 33 to 3, and referred to the judiciary committee. Corwin is now reaping the reward of his merits, the reward that every one will receive who takes a stand against his own country. This man who was once a prominent whig candidate for the Presidency, for the course he has taken in relation to the war, is now justly branded by the name of "Traitor Corwin."

### Canal Affairs.

There is in circulation, a circular, purporting to be addressed to the subscribers for the completion of the canal, and to the holders of canal bonds. It is signed by a number of names, the larger portion of whom we always understood to be the especial favorites of the Chief Engineer and his abettors. The signers, with a few exceptions, are whigs, and like the Chief Engineer, probably, think that to be a member of that party is a sufficient guaranty for ability to perform any duties upon the line, from which pecuniary advantage is to be realized.

The objects of the publication of this circular at this time, must be obvious to all. It is intended to have effect upon the Governor, and, if possible, to deter him from using that prerogative which the law gives him, to prevent abuse and corruption from being allowed in the Engineer department of the canal. This attempt of these political favorites to sustain Mr. Gooding, we predict, will not prevent the Executive of this State from discharging his duty in the premises, fearlessly, and to the satisfaction of every unprejudiced mind. That there has been gross misconduct in the control and management of the canal cannot be doubted. Abundance of impartial and substantial testimony has been produced, the falsity of which cannot be shown. The governor, after a due consideration of all the testimony connected with the subject, will, doubtless, use his authority to prevent future abuses.

The attempts made by the signers of the circular, referred to above, to place Col. Oakley, the State Trustee, in a false position before the people of this State, will be fruitless. His actions so far have been marked by a strict sense of duty. Ever since he has assumed his official duties, the Chief Engineer and his hirelings, have waged a continued warfare upon him, knowing that he was determined to ferret out and correct abuses, and consequently they were aware that their misdeeds would be brought to light. Such motives as these were the grounds of the opposition to Col. Oakley, as every one must be convinced who will take a candid view of the whole matter. But those who have adopted this course of opposition to the State Trustee, have mistaken the people of Illinois. They will not submit to see their agent, while laboring for the rights and interests of the State, assaulted and opposed, without rallying to sustain him. Col. Oakley, in these matters, has shown himself to be fearless in the discharge of his official duties, and worthy of the confidence which has been reposed in him.

The efforts of Col. Oakley, however, have not been without their effect, as the manner in which the work now progresses fully shows. Those having the work under their charge have become aware that it would not answer for them to retard the completion of the canal longer for the purpose of receiving large salaries, when their objects were so plainly shown—hence the present energetic prosecution of the work. The prospect now is that the canal will be ready for navigation by the first of June next. This era which has been so long anxiously looked for by the people of Illinois, has been hurried on by the energy of Col. Oakley. The beneficial influence of his investigations are visible on the whole line, and are worthy of note. His course has given satisfaction to a large majority of the people on this portion of the line, who have long been witnesses of the mismanagement and abuses which he is laboring to correct.

**A MISTAKE.**—The report of the capture of the whalers in the Pacific, by Mexican privateers, turns out to be without foundation. It seems that the boats which were supposed to be lying on shore captured, were only waiting, for the fruits of the sailors' labors on land, in what they supposed to be a gold mine.

**NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.**—The Ohio Legislature has adopted, unanimously, a resolution requesting the delegation from that State in Congress to vote for an amendment to the post office law which shall permit newspapers to go in the mails free of postage to any post office within thirty miles from the office of publication. The amendment is demanded by the people, and we trust that Congress will not adjourn without adopting it.

It is stated that all the whigs in the United States Senate except Mr. Johnson, of Maryland, will vote against the Ten Regiment Bill, and against the Twenty Thousand volunteer Bill. All their exertions, however, cannot defeat these Bills in the Senate.

Hon. J. A. McCLELLAND, member of Congress from this State, has delivered an able speech in the House in defence of the course of the Administration, which we will publish next week.

**WESTERN CONTINENT.**—This paper is an able exponent of the rights of the Southern States. Its articles are high toned, and maintain the rights of the south with arguments marked with candor and fairness. It is one of the largest papers in the Union, and its columns are filled weekly, with attractive and interesting reading matter. Wm. T. Thompson, editor—price \$2 per annum.

**MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.**—The city of Chicago is now in telegraphic communication with Michigan City, and Milwaukee. In the course of a few weeks, the connection with the east, will be completed when we shall receive news from the Atlantic cities in a few hours.

**MORE HAVING SHOPS BROKEN.**—The latest news from New York gives the suspension of two more banks; the Bank of Cayuga Lake, and the State Bank at Saugerties. Additional proof of the beauty of the paper money system.

Hon. R. Smith, of the first district, in a letter which has been published, declines a re-nomination to Congress.

The Hon. Messrs. Douglass, Wendworth and Calhoun have our thanks for public documents.

Messrs. ZANLEY:—

On reading in the last Signal the frank and manly avowal of the principles of candor and fairness, that shall govern your actions as conductors of a public journal, I most fondly hoped that the foundation was laid for the erection of a social fabric, of fairer proportions than has hitherto adorned our village. Judge then of my disappointment and chagrin, on the appearance of the next number of the *True Democrat*, containing a bitter tirade against some fancied transgressor, who it was insinuated "had shaved some hard laborer of 20 cents upon the dollar in payment of Taxes." The language used by the editor in that article is too strong and tart for a supposed case—nothing short of indubitable certainty, can render tolerable, much less justify the use of such terms. The legitimate design of punishment being reformation, vengeance should form no ingredient in the dose administered—moreover where such malversation in office is known, the duty the public journalist owes to his patrons, imperiously demands of him, exposure, certain and explicit, to the end that the honest indignation of the public, may hunt down the guilty, however shielded by the panoply of official station. But what treble volleys of concentrated scorn, is due to him, who, clothed with the mantle editorial, will by sneaking insinuations, and skulking innuendoes fix suspicion upon the innocent.

And now permit me to enquire of the Editor of the *True Democrat*, to whom the article herein complained of, is intended to apply? Surely if he can justify the publication of so flagrant a philippic, even to himself, he is able to give us the name of the offender; and if he cannot, let him remember that there is at least one, to whom it most naturally points, who has the claims of a Brother for justice—not his hands.

Plainfield, Jan. 27, 1848.

On the 19th of August, when I last wrote to you, we were in the Hot Spring Valley. On the 20th we arrived at the hot springs; they cover about half an acre, and the heat is 145 degrees; they are highly impregnated with lime, sulphur, iron and copper or coppers. There is a good cold spring within 100 yards of the hot spring. 20 miles from there will carry you out of this valley of 50 miles; you then cross a ridge to the waters of Marey's River. On crossing the ridge, take the left hand road, it is the best for wagons. On the head waters of Marey's river you will find the last of the friendly Snake Indians; the next Indians you meet call themselves Shaw shawnees. They have no horses, and are almost naked. This tribe will steal and kill your cattle—they will come as friends, but you must treat them as enemies, and keep them out of your camp. We treated them as friends until they stole 4 oxen, 1 cow and one horse; we followed them 20 miles into the mountain and found one ox killed, the others we could not find. After that we shot at every Indian we saw—this soon cleared the way, so that we did not see any Indians for 200 miles. The first 200 miles the grass and water is mostly good, the last 100 miles of this River the water is scarce and poor, and grass hard to find. Sometimes for 20 miles there is not a spear on this part of the road. Keep out some men to hunt for grass and water, for sometimes it can be found at a distance from the road. The first sinque of Marey's river it is 65 miles from Turkey river, the first 25 miles that we have passed over is a level sand plain, covered with salt. At this place is called the last sinque of the river; here is some poor water, and a little grass. This 65 miles has to be travelled in the night, on account of the dust. This is a desolate region, for 500 miles nothing but sage and burnt dust, without timber and not more than one acre in 10,000 that bears grass. The road on this river is mostly good. The valley of Marey's river is entirely surrounded by mountains with no outlet. This country is not worth possessing, it is too dry and barren to produce any thing.

Sept. 10th at 10 o'clock.—We are now within 205 miles of the settlement in California. To-night we start on the 40 mile stretch without water. Our company is in good health and spirits.

Yours, with respect,

CHESTER INGERSOLL.

The last sinque of Marey's river,

Sept. 10th, 1847.

### Thirtieth Congress.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.

**IN THE SENATE.**—Sundry petitions were presented and referred to the appropriate committees.

Mr. Badger made a spirited and energetic speech in opposition to the Ten Regiment Bill.

Mr. Foote spoke in defence of it, when the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Botts, chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, presented a bill to provide clothing for volunteers, allowing same as to regulars.

A bill was also presented from same committee, making provision for disabled officers, and another for asylum for enfeebled soldier.

Mr. Vinton, from the Committee of Ways and Means, presented a bill providing for obtaining a loan of \$18,500,000.

Mr. Broadhead moved that the House go into Committee of the Whole on so much of the President's message as relates to military affairs. Mr. B. made some remarks in opposition to the war.

Mr. McLean obtained the floor and spoke in defence of the course of the administration, but was frequently interrupted by members to correct his misstatements.

Mr. Tompkins followed in a powerful and able speech in opposition to Mr. Polk's course, in refusing the information called for in relation to his "pass" to Santa Anna.

Mr. Hall, of Mo., followed in defence of the President.

Mr. Barrow obtained the floor when the House adjourned.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.

In the Senate, to-day, the resolutions previously offered by Mr. Mangum, calling for Gen. Scott's plans, passed.

Mr. Bagby offered resolutions denying the power of the General Government to construct internal improvements.

Mr. Badger offered resolutions declaring the Ten Regiment Bill and the war unconstitutional.

In the House of Representatives, to-day, a debate took place on Mr. Trist's correspondence, but no vote was taken, and but little else of interest transpired.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.

In the House of Representatives, to-day, Mr. Brodhead announced the death of his colleague, Mr. Hornbeck, whereupon the customary resolutions were passed, and the House adjourned.

In the Senate, Mr. Atherton asked leave to introduce a bill modifying the Sub-Treasury Law.

Mr. Davis, from the Committee on Military Affairs, presented a bill to establish an asylum for the retired and disabled soldiers.

Mr. Mangum's resolutions, inquiring whether the recent order of Gen. Scott to occupy Mexican territory emanated from the War Department, were taken up.

Mr. Cass opposed the resolutions.

Mr. Mangum spoke in defence of them, and said it was usual for gentlemen on the other side of the House to oppose all such inquiries and said the gentlemen opposite seemed tender footed.

Mr. Cass declared such sentiments, and spoke in vindication of the President.

After some further debate, Mr. Mangum modified his resolutions by adding a discretionary clause, when they were adopted.

The Ten Regiment Bill being the order of the day, was then taken up.

Mr. Foote spoke in reply to Mr. Calhoun and advocated the conquest and occupation of the whole of Mexico.

Mr. Crittenden followed in an eloquent defence of Mr. Clay, and repelled the charges made against him by Mr. Foote, when he closed the Senate adjourned.

Later from Santa Fe.

We are indebted to Mr. Diffenderfer for late Santa Fe papers, which contain a few items of interest.

Several of the Navajo chiefs, recently paid a visit to Santa Fe, with a view to treat for peace, but they met with no encouragement.

Dr. Morton, Surgeon to Col. Rall's regiment, arrived at Santa Fe on the 25th November, in company with Mr. McCarthy, of the firm of Ballard, Hook & Co.

When two days from Los Vegas, the company were attacked by fifty or sixty Indians, and in the fight six of them were killed. The Indians were of the Apache tribe. No one was hurt in McCarthy's party.

Lieut. Merritt was still in command of Capt. Geis' company.

Capt. Skillman and Mr. William Smith, of Santa Fe, arrived from El Paso late in November. They reported that Governor Trias was at Chihuahua, with six hundred troops, and fifteen hundred more were expected to join him from Sonora.

Mr. Skinner was not only a prisoner at Chihuahua, but was in the calaboose, with Mr. Howard and two other Americans. His goods were taken to Chihuahua and confiscated.—*Reveille.*

From the Rio Grande.

The U. S. steamer Telegraph, Capt. Folger, arrived at New Orleans on the 12th inst., from the Brazos, having sailed thence on the 8th inst.

The Matamoros Flag, of the 3d instant, announces the arrival of the steamer Maj. Brown from Camargo, with nearly \$90,000 in silver bars, the duty on which, according to the Flag, between \$6,000 and \$7,000.

Capt. Chapman, the quartermaster, has been inspecting and reviewing the troops in the vicinity of Matamoros, as well as the public works. The Flag speaks of the result as very favorable to the efficiency of Colonel Temple.—*Reveille.*

From the St. Louis Reveille.  
From Mex. co.

Last evening, late, the Little Missouri arrived from New Orleans, bringing us dates to the 14th. From the Delta we hastily compile the following summary of Mexican news:

The steamer Virginia, Capt. Tucker, left Vera Cruz on the 4th, and Tampico on the 6th January. The Delta has full correspondence, and files from the city of Mexico, Queretaro, Guadalajara, and Morelia.

The Free American, of the 31st Dec., contains an account of a supper given by the Louisiana Volunteers and Rangers to Lieut. Col. D. H. Miles.

About half past 9 o'clock, Gen. Twiggs and Staff entered, and participated in the evening's entertainment. He was received with a soldier's welcome—the band playing an appropriate air.

Toast by Gen. Twiggs:  
Honor to the citizen soldier, who steps forward to battle for his country. Shame to the knaves at home, who give aid and comfort to our enemies.

This toast of the White Haired Hero of Cerro Gordo, expresses in strong terms the feeling of the whole army. Many other appropriate toasts were drank, and the supper went off with great hilarity and satisfaction.

Capt. J. K. Taylor was to have left with his company of Twiggs' rifles, for Jalapa, with a wagon train on the 1st January.

The troops of the Department of Vera Cruz, for the protection of the port, were mustered on the 2d, by order of General Twiggs.

Gen. Butler's troops had all arrived at the city of Mexico. They were in good health.

There would probably be no movement towards San Louis, or Queretaro, for some weeks. The expedition would be under the command of Maj. Gen. Butler, and consist of 4,000 men. Col. Riley's brigade was at Tacubaya. Gen. Cushing's at San Angel.

Mustang, the Delta's correspondent, says: "War stock is down, and peace stock is up, but I must admit that the market, among the outsiders, is rather fluctuating, and speculation has taken a wide range. On the 1st of January next is the day fixed for the meeting of the Mexican Congress, with Herrera as President. The proceedings will be of a highly important character, and full of interest to the people of the United States."

The President's Message had been received at the city of Mexico, but was considered too pacific.

There was a "flare up," on the 24th ult., between Gov. Smith and the City Council, (Mexicans) growing out of some acts of bad faith on the part of the latter. The council was dissolved by order of the Governor, and newly elected officers installed.

A correspondent of the Delta, under date of the 27th ult., says:

"The prospects for negotiating a peace immediately increase daily, and, in fact, we have every reason to believe the Mexicans will conclude it during the next month, if our Government will accede to the terms they offered during the armistice."

"The speeches of Mr. Clay and Mr. Webster have been received here. If these gentlemen want to assist the enemy, why do they not go into their ranks at once? If they had Mexican muskets on their shoulders, they could not assist the Mexicans as much, or do us as much harm, as they have done by their speeches."

Revolution in Jamaica.

The assembly of Jamaica has protested the interference of the Home Government. They say:

"The House laments that her Majesty's government has been induced to interfere with the raising and appropriation of the Island revenue—an interference which has at all times been distasteful, and, in the present instance, inconvenient and oppressive."

"The Coolies sent to Jamaica are now in hundreds roving about the island in a state of starvation. Mendicancy, which threatens to be permanent, if the Coolies are not reshipped to their eastern homes, has taken up an abode there, and begins to be felt as a severe tax on the planters and others. Of course the unseemingly blotch on the face of society which it causes is deplorable."

GEN. TAYLOR.—The New York Tribune is resisting with all its might the attempt to make Gen. Taylor the whig candidate for the Presidency. It says:

"Gen. Taylor, a man utterly unknown as a whig, or as a civilian in any way, until within the last year or so, has also been proposed. He declines to answer questions calculated to test devotion to whig principles, declines to say that he will abide the choice of a Whig National Convention, or the whig party in any way; declines to say he will support Mr. Clay if nominated; but says he will run any how, nominated or not nominated, whig candidate or no whig candidate."

ARKANSAS.—The democratic state convention of Arkansas recently met and appointed their delegates to the national convention and an electoral ticket. A resolution was passed against the Wilmot Proviso; the following was also adopted:

Resolved, That the convention has unbounded confidence in the moral worth, integrity, patriotism, long experience and sound democracy of Levi Woodbury, of New Hampshire; James Buchanan, of Pa.; Lewis Cass, of Michigan; Geo. M. Dallas, of Penn.; Robert J. Walker, of Miss.; and would warmly and cordially support either of said gentlemen for President of the United States, or any other good democrat, it nominated by the national convention.